Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 33, with the following amended paragraph:

The electrical signal of the optical converter circuit 38 is transmitted to an attenuator circuit 44. The attenuator circuit 44 attenuates the electrical signal of the optical converter circuit 38 in order to provide constant signal levels at its output which leads to a matching network 46. The matching network 46 matches the output of the attenuator circuit 44 to an amplifier stage 48. The amplifier stage 48 comprises two amplifiers ~~54, 56~~ 53, 55 in order to amplify the output signal of the matching network for an output transformer 50. The output transformer 50 transforms the balanced signal of its input to an unbalanced signal at its output 52. The matching network 46, the amplifier stage 48 and the output transformer 50 form the output circuit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

The fourth attenuation stage is ~~connecting~~ connected in parallel with the light-controlled current source 56. The fourth attenuation stage comprises a series connection of a resistor 102, having a resistance of 325 Ω, and a MOSFET 104. The terminal 80 is connected between the resistor 102 and the drain contact of the MOSFET 104. The gate of the MOSFET 104 is connected to ground. The terminal 80 is connected between the resistor 102 and the drain contact of the MOSFET 104. The third and fourth attenuation stages are separated by the capacitors 124 and 136. The drain contact of the MOSFET 100 is connected to the terminal 80. A terminal 82 of the A/D-converter 64 is coupled to the terminal 84 of the fifth attenuation stage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

The fifth attenuation stage comprises a series connection of a resistor 106, having a resistance of 130 Ω, and a MOSFET 109. The fourth and fifth attenuation stages are separated by capacitors 126 and 138. The fifth attenuation stage is connected in parallel with the light-controlled current source 56. The gate contact of the MOSFET 109 is connected to ground. A terminal 84 is connected between a resistor 106 and the drain contact of the MOSFET 109. The fifth attenuation stage and a load 108 are separated by capacitors 128 and 140. The attenuation stages are set by the A/D-converter 64 ~~independence~~ in dependence on the value of V_{CONTR} and the attenuation is, therefore, determined by the division of the current of the current source section 56 between the attenuation stages and the load 108. Furthermore, an advantageous feature of the attenuator circuit is that the attenuator circuit reduces the intermodulation distortion of the optical receiver.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 shows a graph of the second order distortion (d2) in dBc ~~as~~ as a function of the optical input power in dBm. The second order distortion (d2) is defined by the second-order distortion product which is the difference in dB between the peak level of an RF signal at the measurement frequency and the peak level of the signal at the measuring frequency caused by two CW signals having their second order modulation product (f1±f2) at the measuring frequency.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

The curve "d2 without attenuation" rises linearly with a rising optical input power. The curve "d2 with attenuation" has a shape which rises to a maximum value and moves vertically down after reaching the maximum when the optical input power is increased further. The curve ~~slopes~~ slope rises linearly until it reaches again a maximum value. After reaching the maximum value, the curve again descends vertically to another lower value in the case of a further increase of the optical input power and then the curve rises again. The average value of the described attenuation forms a horizontal line in the case of optical input power. This horizontal line is represented by the curve "average of d2 with attenuation".